

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected all of the pending claims, Claims 1 - 22, under 35 U.S.C. §112, and Claims 1 and 12 were further rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being fully anticipated by each of U.S. Patents 5,255,683 (Monaghan) and 5,410,516 (Uhlendorf, et al.). None of Claims 2-11 or 13-22 was rejected over the prior art, and the Examiner indicated that these Claims would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112. The Examiner also asked that Figure 1 be labeled, asked for a copy of the Christopher thesis mentioned on page 8 of the specification, and queried the disclosure regarding the manner of coupling transducer 22 to specimen 24 and the mode of display.

In response to the Examiner's requests, a copy of the Christopher thesis is submitted herewith, and a copy of Figure 1, labeled as such, is also enclosed. With respect to the Examiner's query regarding the disclosure, Applicant notes that a conventional ultrasonic transducer may be used in the practice of this invention, and that the transducer may be coupled to the specimen or sample in a conventional or standard manner well known in the ultrasonic imaging art. This feature of the present invention is well known *per se*, and its use is well understood by those of ordinary skill in the art. Likewise, once the desired image data are obtained, that data may be used in a conventional or standard manner to produce a display of the specimen. Although the specimen may be relatively thin, it is well known that ultrasonic images of such specimens may be produced, and equipment for producing those images are known and understood by those of ordinary skill in the art.

In order to place this application in condition for

allowance, Claims 2, 8 and 10 are each being rewritten in independent form including the limitations of Claim 1; and Claims 13, 17 and 21 are each being rewritten in independent form including the limitations of Claim 12. Also, the limitations of Claims 1 and 9 are being combined into new claim 23; and the limitations of Claims 1 and 11, Claims 12 and 20, and Claims 12 and 22 are being combined into new Claims 24, 25 and 26 respectively. In view of these changes to the claims, original Claims 1, 9, 11, 12, 20 and 22 are being canceled. Also, new independent Claims 27 and 28 are being added to describe the invention in an alternative manner.

In amending Claims 2, 8, 10, 13, 19 and 21, and in preparing new Claims 23 - 28, care has been taken to address the §112 rejection of original Claims 1 and 12. Specifically, the independent method Claims 2, 8, 10, 23, 24 and 27 include the step of generating an ultrasonic signal, and set forth the feature that the sample reflects this signal. This provides an appropriate antecedent basis for the use of the phrase "the signal" in the receiving step of these claims. Similarly, the independent system Claims 13, 19, 21, 25, 26 and 28 set forth means for generating an ultrasonic signal and set forth the feature that the sample reflects the ultrasonic signal, and this provides the antecedent basis for the phrase "the signal" in the description of the receiving means included in these claims.

It is submitted that Claims 2 - 8, 10, 13 - 19, 21 and 23 - 26, as presented herewith are clear and definite and, moreover, are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to reconsider and to withdraw the rejections of Claims 2 - 8, 10, 13 - 19 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §112, and to allow these Claims and Claims 23 - 26.

Every effort has been made to place this case in

condition for allowance. For the reasons advanced above, the Examiner is requested to reconsider and to withdraw the rejections of Claims 2 - 8, 10, 13 - 19 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §112 and to allow these Claims and new Claims 23 - 28. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicant's Attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition to this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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